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TAGS: OPRC KMDR TU
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
Iraqi groups worried about Shiite influence on new
constitution - Hurriyet
Turkey wants U.S. action, not words on PKK - Turkiye
Powell: new Mideast to be based on tolerance, freedom -
Milliyet
AKP threatens to call early election - Turkiye
Parliament back from summer recess today - Sabah
Verheugen demands implementation of EU reforms - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS
Growing rift between White House, CIA - Cumhuriyet
Washington aims to untie Iraq knot at UN in October - Zaman
Chalabi received \$1 million from U.S. for false WMD info -
Radikal
U.S. gives 'Rambo training' to 7,000 peshmerge - Yeni Safak
Denktas: Annan Plan was drafted together with Greek Cypriots
- Yeni Safak
Israel's 'security wall' toughens life for Palestinians -
Cumhuriyet
Verheugen: Turkey has taken significant steps forward -
Zaman

BRIEFING

Ambassador Black due in Ankara: U.S. State Department
counter-terrorism coordinator Ambassador Cofer Black will be
in Ankara on Wednesday to discuss the PKK/KADEK issue with
MFA officials. The two sides agreed on a joint plan of
action against the PKK on September 12. Ankara wants
Washington to draw up a concrete plan to eradicate the
threat posed by the PKK before Turkey deploys peacekeepers
to Iraq. Papers comment that the U.S. wants to see the
results of the repentance law recently passed by Ankara
before launching a military operation against the terrorist
organization. Dailies quote diplomatic sources as saying
the U.S. delegation has prepared a plan of action to discuss
with Turkish officials at meetings on Thursday. The cabinet
is set to hold an extraordinary meeting in the coming days
to consider sending troops to Iraq to support the
stabilization mission there.

Election fraud by DEHAP: The head of Turkey's election
board (YSK) indicated he will announce next week a decision
about a court ruling convicting the pro-Kurdish party DEHAP
of election fraud. The YSK decision could reduce the
government's majority in parliament and lead the GOT to call
early elections. The government stands to lose the two-
thirds legislative majority needed to alter the
constitution. Junior opposition party DYP has applied to
the YSK to annul the votes cast for DEHAP on November 3, and
to distribute them among the three parties now in
parliament. However, papers regard the cancellation of the
November 3 election results as a remote possibility.

Verheugen presses for implementation of EU reforms: The
EU's expansion chief, Guenther Verheugen, urged Foreign
Minister Gul earlier this week to implement some critical EU
reforms, "Milliyet" reports. The EU wants to see the

implementation of language education and broadcasting in Kurdish, issuance of regulations changing the structure of the National Security Council (NSC), and harmonization of regulations concerning foundations. Verheugen also told Gul that Turkey's State Security Courts (SSC) should be transformed into specialized courts, and that Turkey still needs to catch up with the EU standards regarding freedom of expression.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- A) Guantanamo
- B) Iraq

"Guantanamo Law"
Fikret Ertan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (10/1): "When it comes to the case of Guantanamo, the US is not acting within internationally recognized practices for 'prisoners of war,' and instead calls the foreigners in Guantanamo 'detainees captured on the battlefield.' It seems that prison conditions in Guantanamo are simply unbearable. . The controversy over the issue once again made headlines following Secretary Rumsfeld's remarks, in which he made clear that a change in Guantanamo's population is unlikely because the legal process may take years. His remarks signify a completely arbitrary approach that goes against all existing rules and laws. . After Rumsfeld's statement, one wonders if the prisoners will spend rest of their lives in the Delta Camp regardless of whether or not they have committed a crime. The international community should immediately work on revising the Geneva Convention, have it adapted to the current circumstances, and rule out the ongoing practices at Guantanamo at once."

"Can Kurds in Iraq Be the Winner?"

Kamuran Ozbir commented in the nationalist Ortadogu (10/1): "Before the war, Iraqi Kurds enjoyed a privileged status compared to the other ethnic groups in Iraq. Now the Kurds have to decide whether they will support the plan for Iraq developed by the Bush administration. The US plan will likely ignore the expectations of the Kurds. Before and during the war, the US was in need of the Kurds. Today, they are no longer necessary for the US, since American forces are in control of the country. . Once Iraq is fully reestablished, the Kurds will lose their autonomy. Moreover the US administration is not supporting the Kurds' argument for independence, as is clear from US official remarks about a unified Iraq. . It seems that the Kurds will be on the losing side."

EDELMAN